

PARTICIPANT BENEFITS

- Paid work experience.
- Job skills that make them more likely to be hired in the future.
- Increased independence, confidence and self-esteem.
- On-site instruction, support and accommodations in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Small group learning.
- Practice interviews, feedback and assessment of skills with program and host employer staff.
- Supported occupational work environment.
- Critical job readiness skills ("soft skills" like teamwork, leadership, etc.) taught in a classroom environment.

APPRENTICESHIP EXAMPLES

- Administrative assistant and clerical
- Maintenance technician
- Materials warehouse
- Medical clerical
- Custodial/housekeeping
- Horse barn/stable
- Culinary
- Information technology
- Trades apprentice (carpentry, plumbing, masonry, etc.)
- Retail clerk
- Animal care

For more information or to request an application, email se.questions@hhsc.state.tx.us.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Connecting
people to
work.



HHS VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



The Texas Health and Human Services Vocational Apprenticeship Program serves people around the state who have intellectual and developmental disabilities or mental health challenges by offering classroom education and work experience in the community. With the skills they learn, graduates will have increased opportunities to find competitive integrated employment, where they earn at least minimum wage and similar to what employees without disabilities earn, interact with people without disabilities and have similar advancement opportunities as employees without disabilities.

Program Description

The Vocational Apprenticeship Program is a one-year program. Each apprentice completes one to two apprenticeships in real and practical work environments to learn skills that will help them gain and perform competitive integrated jobs.

These real work environments facilitate learning while earning a wage. Apprentices also learn life skills that increase their employability.



Program staff, job coaches, supervisors and co-workers provide individualized feedback to apprentices to enhance and develop their skills, strengths and interests. This support prepares apprentices for success and independence in the community workplace. The program benefits the apprentice, the workplace and the community.



Applying to the Program

The application collects information about the applicant's skills, abilities and work history. Applications must be submitted at least 60 days before the program begins. A selection committee will hold interviews, select applicants to join the program and may contact the applicant's family or program service team for additional information.



To Be Accepted, Applicants Must:

- Be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or GED.
- Have a history of good attendance in other programs.
- Demonstrate appropriate social, grooming and hygiene skills.
- Have basic independent self-care skills.
- Demonstrate basic communication skills.
- Be able to take direction and instruction from others.
- Desire to work in a workplace with people without disabilities.
- Not require enhanced supervision that impedes their independence in the workplace.

Typical Daily Schedule

- 9 a.m. – Classroom learning
- 10 a.m. – Work at the job site
- Noon – Lunch
- 1 p.m. – Work at the job site
- 3 p.m. – Daily chat session with other apprentices and program instructor
- 3:30 p.m. – Dismissal

HHS VOCATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP

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